



# Data Points

CWHHS

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

California has established a number of far-reaching programs to increase access for all Californians to a secure supply of healthy foods. However, to better serve those who remain at risk of hunger, the California Women's Health Survey (CWHHS) examines the association between women who live in a household with young children and the risk for hunger among women of different age groups. In households with a limited supply of food, scarce food supplies may be provided to young children at the expense of adults in the household.<sup>1</sup> Thus, women living in households with young children may be more likely to be at risk for hunger than those living in households without young children. In addition, many children in California are raised by grandparents rather than parents. The effects of living with children may be different among women of different age groups. The 1997 CWHHS determined that in general, women of childbearing age were more likely to be at risk for hunger than were older women.<sup>2</sup>

The 1998 CWHHS was used to determine characteristics of women most likely to be at risk for hunger. Women who answered "yes" to the question: **"In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should have because there wasn't enough money to buy food?"** were considered to be at risk for hunger.

Demographic information collected included race, ethnicity, and the ages and number of children living in the household. Women living with at least one child under age six were classified as living in a household with young children.

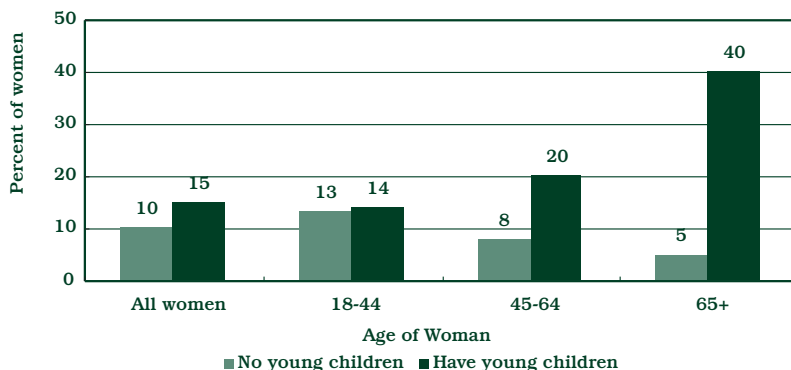
- Among all California women, 11% reported having insufficient food at some time in the previous year.
- Women living in households with young children are more likely than those in households without young children to be at risk for hunger. Among women living with young children, 15% were at risk for hunger compared to 10% of those in households without young children.
- Of all women in California at risk for hunger, 33% live in households with children under the age of six.
- Among women living in households without young children, younger women are more likely than older women to be at risk for hunger. In contrast, among women living with young children, older women are more likely than younger women to be at risk for hunger.

## RISK FOR HUNGER AMONG WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, CALIFORNIA, 1998

Office of Women's Health

Maternal and Child Health Branch

**Risk for Hunger Among Women in Households With and Without Young Children by Age of Woman  
California, 1998**



<sup>1</sup> Rose D, "Economic determinants and dietary consequences of food insecurity in the United States." (1999) J Nutr 129 (2S Suppl): 517S-520S

<sup>2</sup> Data Points, Issue 1 (13). (1998) "Risk for Hunger Among Women, by Age; California, 1997.

Issue 2, Spring 2001, Num.1